



DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

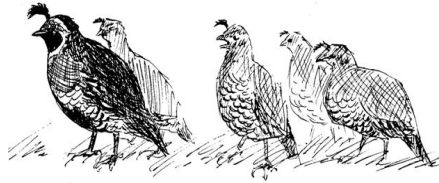


Sunday, December 1, 2013

7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.



11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – The Pollen Path: Seasonal Movements of Native Americans 1 Hour

Discover the amazing secrets of the Native Americans who lived in the area that is now Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Join Volunteer Naturalist Steve Russell in an exciting journey through the past as we take a look at how early residents migrated to take advantage of different food supplies.

12:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – Those Amazing Desert Plants!

1 Hour

Explore the Visitor Center garden with Park Interpreter Sally Theriault and discover some of the unique strategies that help plants survive here. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

1:00 p.m. Class – Viewing and Photographing Comet ISON

2 Hours



In December, an icy cosmic nomad named Comet ISON will swing past our planet on its way back to the outer solar system; stories abound about how big, bright and dramatic it will be and all the sorts of calamities it will bring. Learn the facts about comets, what makes ISON special and how to view and photograph it like a pro. Fee \$10. To register, or for details, call 760-767-0446.



2014 Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest

Starting December 1, 2013, Anza-Borrego Foundation will be accepting entries into the 2014 Photo Contest! Guidelines, categories, and more information can be found at www.theabf.org/photocontest or call Ashley Kvitek, Education Coordinator at 760-767-0446 ext 1003.

UNLESS NOTED, ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND HELD AT THE VISITOR CENTER (OPEN DAILY).

♿ DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED. PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.



DENOTES PROGRAMS OFFERED BY OUR COOPERATING ASSOCIATION, ANZA-BORREGO FOUNDATION. FUNDS SUPPORT INTERPRETATION AT ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK. **DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.**



DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Thursday, December 5, 2013

9:00 Hike – Earthquake Valley Panorama

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists, Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund, for a moderate 4-mile hike up Plum Canyon to an overlook high over Earthquake Valley. Discover some interesting plants and geological features along the way. Meet at the entrance to Plum Canyon off Highway 78.

Saturday, December 7, 2013

8:00 a.m. Hike – Harper Canyon Wildlife Hike

8.5 Hours



Join CA State Parks Environmental Scientist Mike Puzzo on a steep and strenuous hike in Harper Canyon to the Harper Flat guzzler to learn about the use of this supplemental water source and what the Park hopes to gain from an ongoing monitoring program. The fee is \$45 / \$35 for ABF members. To register, or for details, call 760-767-0446.

9:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Bonnie Clapp will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

9:00 a.m. Hike –Ghost Mountain

2 Hours

Experience the Marshal South story on this trek up Ghost Mountain with Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker. The hike is steep but relatively short (one mile up, one mile down) and offers a glimpse into the family's life on this remote mountain top. Bring water, a snack, hat and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Marshal South Homesite Trailhead in Blair Valley (turn off Highway S-2 near Mile Marker 23 and follow the dirt road almost 3 miles).

10:00 a.m. Hike – Hidden Vista

1 Hour

Hike about ½ mile to the Bill Kenyon Overlook from Yaqui Pass Camp. We will explore the rocky habit along the trail to reach the dramatic overlook. Take Yaqui Pass Road (S-3) and meet Ranger Jeri Zemon at the far end of Yaqui Pass Camp (mile marker #2) at 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - In Search of the Elusive Elephant Tree

30 Minutes

The seldom seen, endangered elephant tree survives in only a few scattered and isolated spots in California. Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier at the Visitor Center to find out how to identify these distinctive trees, hear why Native Americans valued the trees, and discover where you can look for elephant tree herds “in the wild”.

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DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Saturday, December 7, 2013 (continued)

11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - Solar Cooking Demonstration

1 Hour

Solar energy - the old/new technology. Volunteer Naturalist Eleanor Shimeall demonstrates solar oven cooking and explains why this technology is so important. Meet at the Nierenberg Amphitheater outside the Visitor Center.

12:00 p.m. Workshop – Desert Night Sky Photography for Beginners

8 Hours



If you love photography and are fascinated by the spectacular desert night sky, this two-day hands-on workshop is for you! Not only will you get to enjoy some of Dennis Mammana's classic night sky images, but you will also learn the basics of capturing beautiful celestial photographs with little more than a camera, tripod and a starry night sky. The schedule for the two-day workshop is as follows. On Saturday the 7th there will be a classroom presentation 12 noon – 3 pm and an outdoor lab (weather permitting) 5 – 8 pm. On Sunday the 8th class will meet 10 am - 12 noon. Fee is \$100 / \$90 for ABF members. To register and receive details, call 760-767-0446.

7:30 p.m. – Campfire ♿ - Bats of Borrego and Beyond

1 Hour

Bats are in the air, everywhere! Find out why these mysterious night flyers are disappearing and how you can help protect them. Meet Ranger Jeri at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

Sunday, December 8, 2013

9:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Interact with Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker as he roams the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for him in his volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

12:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – Those Amazing Desert Plants!

1 Hour

Explore the Visitor Center garden with Park Interpreter Sally Theriault and discover some of the unique strategies that help plants survive here. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

1:30 p.m. Talk ♿ – The Pollen Path: Seasonal Movements of Native Americans

1 Hour

Discover the amazing secrets of the Native Americans who lived in the area that is now Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Join Volunteer Naturalist Steve Russell in an exciting journey through the past as we take a look at how early residents migrated to take advantage of different food supplies.

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DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Monday, December 9, 2013

10:00 a.m. Botany Lecture

1 Hour

Scot Martin, Environmental Scientist, will give a lecture on invasive species in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park sponsored by the ABDSP Botany Society. The public is welcome, and there is no charge. Meet in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab.

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

1:00 p.m. Walk – Desert Scents

1 Hour

Enjoy an easy stroll through the Visitor Center garden with Volunteer Naturalist Ingrid Coffin. Use your senses on this plant exploration program that meets at the Visitor Center entrance.

Thursday, December 12, 2013

9:00 a.m. Hike – South Palm Wash

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a hike up a wash, then into a beautiful slot canyon up to a 20-25 foot dry waterfall. There is a rock-fall about 100 meters before the waterfall that can be negotiated by those who choose. Meet at the overlook at Mile Marker 38 on S22 (at the phone call box near the Calcite Mine) for this moderate 4-mile hike.

1:00 p.m. Walk – Desert Scents

1 Hour

Enjoy an easy stroll through the Visitor Center garden with Volunteer Naturalist Ingrid Coffin. Use your senses on this plant exploration program that meets at the Visitor Center entrance.

Friday, December 13, 2013

9:00 a.m. Paleontology Lecture – Odontology

3 Hours

Dr. Lyndon Murray, District paleontologist, will present this lecture as part of the Volunteer Paleontology lecture series. Open to the public. Meet in the Discovery Lab at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, December 14, 2013

7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.



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DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Saturday, December 14, 2013 (continued)

9:00 a.m. Tour – Split Mountain

8 Hours



Join longtime ABF instructor Paul Remeika as he leads participants up Fish Creek Wash for several short excursions to introduce participants to the complex history of the badlands highlighted with shellfish from the northern Gulf of California, petrified (silicified) woods that once occupied the river delta and footprint impressions from an extinct vertebrate fauna. Call 760-767-0446 for details and registration. \$70/\$60 for ABF members.

9:00 a.m. Hike – Voices, Visions, and Views of Alcoholic Pass

4 Hours

Hike Alcoholic Pass! Join Volunteer Naturalists Ron & Peg Poitras to experience and discover the prehistory, history, and present day journey of those who have used this trail for food, water, work, and fun. This is a four- hour excursion into the pass. Meet at the north end of DiGiorgio Road. This is a strenuous but relatively short hike, bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots.

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

1:00 p.m. Walk ♿ - Garden Walk

45 Minutes

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker as she takes you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover what is in bloom.

2:00 p.m. Talk ♿ - Borregos in Their Park

1 Hour

If you haven't had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the namesake of the Park, or even if you have seen the Desert Bighorns, you can learn what makes these animals the favorites of Park visitors. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus as we explore the world of the Desert Bighorn.

7:30 p.m. – Campfire ♿ - Ranger Surprise

1 Hour

Join Ranger Richard at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center for a fun campfire program.

Sunday, December 15, 2013

9:00 a.m. Tour – Salton Sea: The Neglected Treasure

8 Hours



The Salton Sea is a treasure of abundant wildlife and mysterious geology. Join Paul Johnson to explore the area looking for birds, fascinating geology, mud volcanoes, the clay mountain that one man has been painting for over 20 years and much more! We'll lunch at the Wildlife Refuge and learn about the natural and cultural history of this place. Call 760-767-0446 for details and registration. \$70/\$60 for ABF members.

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DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Sunday, December 15, 2013 (continued)

11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - "Song Dog" ... The Wiley Coyote

45 Minutes

Have you heard them at night? Have you seen them...even during the day? Coyotes are increasing their range and increasing their numbers, and they're right here in Anza-Borrego and in town too. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus as we explore the myths and realities of our desert neighbor.

3:00 p.m. Hike – Sunset/Moonlight Hike

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Ted Caragozian and Paul Larson for a desert hike to enjoy the sunset over the mountains and return under the nearly full moon to get a different perspective of the desert at a surprise location. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (to be used only if necessary). Limited to 15 participants – please sign up at the Visitor Center and include your phone number to receive meeting details.

Thursday, December 19, 2013

9:00 Hike – Pictographs – What Were They Trying to Say?

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund on a moderate 3-mile roundtrip hike through a beautiful desert valley to a panoramic overlook. Along the way, we will look at some interesting plants, morteros and rock art. Meet at the entrance to Blair Valley, about a 45 minute drive from the Visitor Center. **NOTE: 4WD or All-wheel-drive MAY be required to reach the trailhead; please inquire at the Visitor Center.**

Saturday, December 21, 2013

12:00 a.m. Hike – Discovering the Archaeological History of the 'Ehmuu Morteros 2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Kumeyaay Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, about 3 miles off Highway S-2 on a dirt road (turn into Blair Valley near mile marker 23). **NOTE: 4WD or All-wheel-drive MAY be required to reach the trailhead; please inquire at the Visitor Center.**

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

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DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Saturday, December 21 (continued)

1:00 p.m. Talk - Borregos in Their Park

1 Hour

If you haven't had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the namesake of the Park, or even if you have seen the Desert Bighorns, you can learn what makes these animals the favorites of Park visitors. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus as we explore the world of the Desert Bighorn.

Sunday, December 22, 2013

1:00 p.m. Walk - Those Amazing Desert Plants!

1 Hour

Explore the Visitor Center garden with Park Interpreter Sally Theriault and discover some of the unique strategies that help plants survive here. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Thursday, December 26, 2013

9:00 a.m. Hike - Squeeze through the Slot

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson on a moderate 3-mile round trip hike through a winding slot canyon with rugged walls, overhanging rocks, and perhaps some surprises. You will have to negotiate some tight squeezes and a short climb up a very steep hill. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road on Highway 78.

11:00 a.m. - - Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.




Friday, December 27, 2013

10:00 a.m. Hike - Milling around Mine Wash

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Archeologist and Naturalist Hank Barber for a fascinating and unforgettable look at how the ingenious desert Indians used plants for food, clothing, shelter and medicine. During this trip we will be discussing how Indians used mesquite, agaves, creosote and other plants. We'll stop at a mesquite grove in Yaqui Wells, and then visit an important ancient Kumeyaay village site at Mine Wash. We'll see hundreds of bedrock mortars, slicks, basins, and rubs that were used for milling food. Afterwards, there will be a short exploratory hike around the site area. Please bring lunch, hat, and ample water. 2-Wheel drive is okay.

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DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Friday, December 27, 2013 (continued)

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

7:30 p.m. Talk ♿ - Stargazing with Binoculars (rainy or cloudy weather cancels)

1.5 Hours

Meet at the Visitor Center to discover how binoculars can help you explore the beautiful night sky! Dress warmly and bring binoculars, if you have them, and a flashlight (red lens preferable).

Saturday, December 28, 2013

8:00 a.m. Tour – Borrego Bike Ride

9.5 Hours



Enjoy this 20-mile intermediate ride around Borrego Springs on your road bike. Cruise through De Anza, Indian Head Ranch, past date and solar farms, by some interesting geologic formations and other highlights along the way. Finish up at the newly reopened La Casa del Zorro for coffee/breakfast before heading back. Fee: \$20/\$10 for ABF members. To register and get details, call 760-767-0446.

9:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Bonnie Clapp will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

12:00 p.m. Talk – Tailgate Tour

1 Hour

Join the only CA State Park pilot, Ranger Kelly McCague, for a special presentation about her responsibilities and see the plane up close. Program will be conducted at the Borrego Springs Airport. Meet her at the airport office and she will take you to the plane.

2:00 p.m. Walk ♿ - Garden Walk

45 Minutes

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker as she takes you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover what is in bloom.

7:30 p.m. – Campfire ♿ - Ranger Surprise

1 Hour

Join Ranger Nicole at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center for a fun campfire program.

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DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



Sunday, December 29, 2013

7:30 a.m. Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

9:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalists Mike and Jan Bigelow will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for them in their volunteer vests as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - "Song Dog" ... The Wiley Coyote

45 Minutes

Have you heard them at night? Have you seen them...even during the day? Coyotes are increasing their range and increasing their numbers, and they're right here in Anza-Borrego and in town too. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus and explore the myths and realities of our desert neighbor.



Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Join us for one of two "First Day" Hikes to Celebrate the New Year!



9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Resolution Hike: Hike Alcoholic Pass!

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Ron & Peg Poitras to experience and discover the prehistory, history, and present-day journey of those who have used this trail for food, water, work, and fun. This is a 4 hour excursion into the pass. Meet at the north end of DiGiorgio Road. This is a strenuous but relatively short hike, bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots.

9:00 a.m. Hike – Borrego Mountain West Butte

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson for a moderate 3-mile (round trip) hike to the top of one of our smaller peaks, but with great views! There will be some walking on narrow ridges and scrambling on rocks toward the summit. Meet just off Highway #78 at the intersection of Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road. Bring water, wear sturdy hiking shoes.

11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - Borregos in Their Park

1 Hour

If you haven't had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the namesake of the Park, or even if you have seen the Desert Bighorns, you can learn what makes these animals the favorites of Park visitors. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus and explore the world of the Desert Bighorn.

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DECEMBER 2013 INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES



DESERT SAFETY

✓ **Carry water AND drink it**

Saving your water for the hike back has led to death in Anza-Borrego. Drink plenty of water before you leave home, while you hike, and on the return route. If you feel thirsty, it is already too late. Drink lots of water and drink often.

✓ **Make sure your vehicle is desert-ready.**

Equip your vehicle for the desert. You should always carry extra water, a shade tarp, a shovel, a tire pump, and extra food.

✓ **Prepare yourself.**

In addition to carrying water, you should have protective clothing, sunscreen, a hat, a good map, food and a first aid kit which includes a comb and tweezers.

✓ **Have a plan.**

Leave all your trip information with a friend. Tell him/her your destination, the route you intend to follow, your expected return time, a description of your vehicle with license plate number, and the time by which he/she should notify park authorities in case you do not return.

✓ **Do not split up the group**

Stay together. Never leave anyone behind to rest.

✓ **Leave snakes alone.**

Many venomous snakes live in the desert. If you threaten them, they may strike. It is illegal to harass, catch, or kill any snake within Anza-Borrego. If bitten, remain calm and seek immediate medical attention.

✓ **When emergencies happen ...**

Stop. Stay calm. Seek shelter. If you are with your vehicle, remain there; do not leave it. Signal with mirrors, white cloth, whistle (three short blasts on a whistle, pause, then three more, repeat frequently), and put your hood up. It is much easier to find a vehicle in the desert than a person!!!

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